

“Roberto Polo’s magnetic pole
energises High Art.”

By Artist Nino Longobardi

Inside the Magic World of Collector ROBERTO POLO

BY RACHEL VANCELETTE | PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHEL HADDI STUDIO

“La Collezione Roberto Polo credo sia uno dei migliori connubi tra le tendenze
artistiche del XX°e XXI°sec. e le architetture complesse e affascinanti del XIII°e
XV°sec. del Monastero di Santa Fe. Il Museo ideale dove trovare ispirazione, grazie
ad un concept geniale tra le opere scelte e la loro installazione.,,

By Artist Arturo Casanova

Roberto Polo, Cuban-American multimillionaire has made an agreement with the Spanish government to cede some of his work from his approximately 7000 piece collection in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha. So, head to Toledo! In the country's biggest cultural deal in over 20

years the Spanish government has agreed to refurbish Toledo, Spain's 13th Century Convento de Santa Fe and a former public-records building in Cuenca, which was once a headquarters of the Spanish Inquisition. Polo says of Cuenca, “It's like a metaphysical magical city. It's like a magical-- it's out of body kind of place.” Carvings on the wall of the large museum there which will

house part of the collection were made by the Jews who had been imprisoned in dungeons there.

Polo says “My first cession in view of donating to the Spanish government is of nearly 500 artworks from my collection of around 7,000. The cession in view of donating is for 15 years renewable for

“Roberto Polo first impresses you as an impossibly larger than life figure, yet one who, with further investigation, has both feet planted firmly on the ground of his own possibility”

By Artist Tom McGlynn

“What I felt visiting the Polo Collection is a feeling of beauty and continuity. The structure of the old building with its history gracefully embraced both the modern and contemporary works mainly painting. Roberto Polo is making a difference as his choices are taken from his extensive knowledge and love of art.”

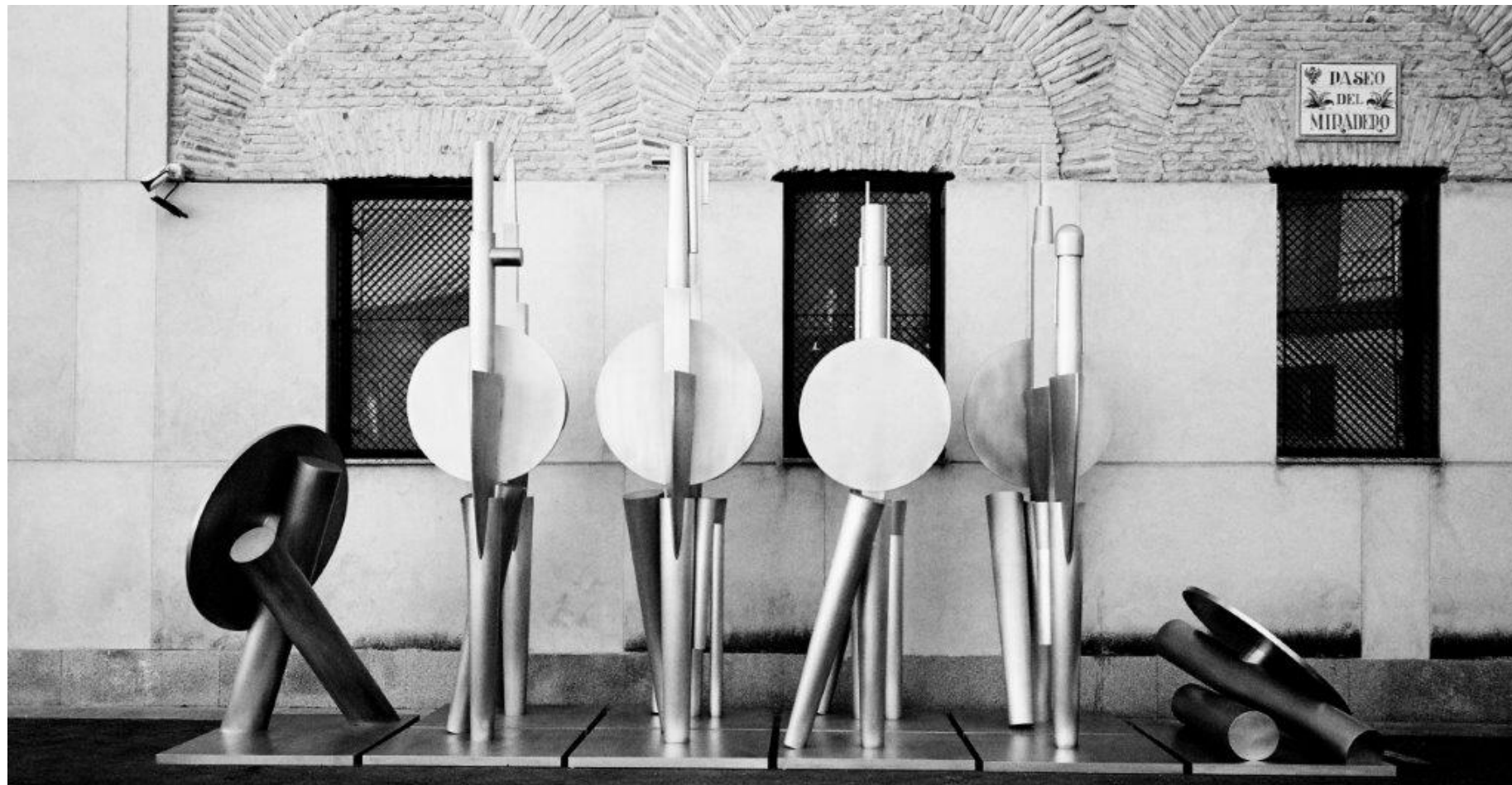
By Artist Rosella Vasta





“Not exist, the only reality are the extraordinary happenings that have or will occur in one place. Somewhere in La Mancha... a miracle I am very proud to be a part of.”

By Artist Juan Garaizabal



another period of 15 years. At any time, the cession could become a donation in part or in whole. The first cession in view of donating consists of paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper and conceptual art. The museum's name is 'Colección Roberto Polo. Centro de Arte Moderno y Contemporáneo de Castilla-La Mancha (CORPO)'. If the Spanish government properly exhibits, conserves and promotes the nearly 500 artworks that I already ceded in view of donating, I will gradually cede more in view of donating all of the around 7,000 artworks in my collection."

The packed opening of the venture in Toledo March 27th brought dignitaries, auction house representatives, mega collectors, artists, government officials and many more from around the world. His loan of the work includes an agreement to donate a permanent collection over time of about 500 works. The current transfer concerns 471 works by 173 artists from Europe and the USA, and covers the nineteenth and especially the 20th and 21st Century with newer more current, but maybe lesser known works. The collection is heavy with

Belgian art, his former home, since there are no laws of preemption on works there.

Polo has reinvented himself so many times in his 66 years, if it were told as a story he says no one would probably believe it. Emerging from a darkened past 30 years ago, the never bashful collector ignores the stings of his critics and remained dedicated to his scholarly passion, determined to narrate and direct his legacy leaving a very large footprint in art world history. He says "a museum's role is paralogical and didactic" and believes museums raise both the stature and the prices for artists and that their real role is to educate and surprise, not to "sing the same song time and time again."

Roberto Polo carries a certain air of elite aristocracy coming from his privileged background. When combined with his boundless energy, a brilliant mind, an art dealer's shrewdness, infectious charisma and devilish sense of humor, we think he will remain a force to be reckoned with for many years to come if his predictions are true and his dreams realized.